DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 421 803 EA 029 235

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TITLE	Learning To Divide the World: Education at Empire's End.
ISBN	ISBN-0-8166-3076-3
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	304p.
AVAILABLE FROM	University of Minnesota Press, 111 Third Avenue South, Suite 290, Minneapolis, MN 55401-2520; phone: 800-388-3863 ($22.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Colonialism; Cultural Influences; Diachronic Linguistics; *Educational Practices; Elementary Secondary Education; English Literature; Geography; Higher Education; *Imperialism; Language; Science Education; *Western Civilization; World History
IDENTIFIERS	*British Empire; Cultural Hegemony; *Postcolonialism

ABSTRACT

The educational project of postcolonialism in the West is only beginning. Although decolonization began in earnest after World War II, the West is only starting to see beyond divisions generated by the same sensibilities that drove imperial expansion. This book examines one powerful source of those divisions--imperialism's influence on our educated view of the world. People need to understand how 5 centuries of studying, classifying, and ordering humanity within an imperial context gave rise to peculiar and powerful ideas of race, culture, and nation--conceptual instruments used by the West to divide up and educate the world. Chapters 2 through 4 explore how imperialism took knowing possession of the world, set that world on public display for the West's edification, and developed the principal forms of schooling serving both colonial state and colonized native. Chapters 5 through 9 examine five staples of school curriculum (history, geography, science, language, and literature), identifying traces of colonial imagination contributing to world divisions. Each chapter traces the subject's historical formation within the age of empire, discusses the legacy it assumed during the 1960s, and closely examines this legacy's lingering element. in today's classrooms. (Contains 559 references.) (MLH)

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